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Docket: XA-9591

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Confirmation No.: 3034  
Hiroshi SEKINE : Examiner: Gregory John BINDA  
Serial No.: 10/002,012 : Group Art Unit: 3679  
Filed: December 5, 2001 :  
For: CROSS JOINT :  
McLean, Virginia  
September 2, 2003

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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SEP 05 2003  
GROUP 3600

Sir:

This Amendment is filed in response to the Official Action dated April 1, 2003, directed to the above-identified application. Please amend the application as indicated below.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 5 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.

An Appendix including replacement sheets of drawings, a Substitute Specification, and a marked-up version of the original specification, is attached following page 10 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached ten (10) sheets of replacement drawings (see Appendix) include changes to the figures to avoid the use of the same reference numerals to identify variations of the same component in different embodiments of the invention. Corresponding changes are made in the Substitute Specification filed herewith. Approval of the replacement sheets of drawings is respectfully requested.